

OFFICIAL RULES

PHOTO CONTEST 2009

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lowell National Historical Park



CONTESTANT ELIGIBILITY

The Contest is sponsored by Lowell National Historical Park, National Park Service. The Contest is open to any individual that falls into one of two age categories, 12 – 17 years of age (Teen) or 18 years of age or older (Adult), as of September 26th, 2009.

Void where prohibited. No purchase or entry fees required. Subject to all federal, state and local laws. If you are a minor in your jurisdiction of residence (generally, under 18), you are advised to obtain the permission of your parent/legal guardian before entering Contest.

ENTERING THE CONTEST

To enter, the Contestant may submit up to 3 qualifying photographs taken by him or her, using a digital or film camera taken anytime between January 1st, 2009- January, 31st, 2010. The Contest will commence on September 26th, 2009 at 12:01am Eastern Standard Time (ET) and end on January 31st, 2010 at 11:59pm Eastern Standard Time (ET). Enter the contest by visiting www.nps.gov/lowe/photosmultimedia/photocontest.htm, read the complete rules, download an entry form, email completed entry form and photo(s) as attachments to: lowell_photo@nps.gov

Image files that do not meet the requirements for recording format, image dimensions or file naming will not be accepted. Each Entry must include all information requested. Incomplete, corrupt, or unreadable entries shall be disqualified. Receipt of Entries will not be acknowledged.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PHOTOS

Photos must be taken within the boundary of Lowell National Historical Park, Lowell Historic District, and/or the City of Lowell. (See map on website for exact boundary definitions).

Entry must depict the Park, District, and/or City as it appears in real life; entry cannot use props to alter actual appearance of said location. **Entries including the identifiable representation of any person(s) requires the submission of a photo release form. This form is available on <http://www.nps.gov/lowe/photosmultimedia/photocontest.htm>.** Any Entry with names, logos or other indication that may be owned or controlled by a third party is ineligible and may be disqualified in Sponsor's sole discretion. Entries must be solely the original work of the Entrant; do not copy anybody else's work. Entry must be submitted by a single individual; no joint/group entries. Entries that have been previously published or won a prize in any other contest are ineligible.

In addition, montages and composite images are ineligible. The Entry must be from a single capture with any digital or film camera. If cruel, unethical or illegal practices are suspected (as determined by Sponsor and/or its agencies in their sole discretion), the photo will be disqualified. If the Entry contains any material that Sponsor and/or its agencies deem, in their sole discretion, to be morally objectionable, inappropriate or unfit for publication, such Entry will be disqualified.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PHOTOS

Photos must be captured with either a digital camera or scanned from a film slide, negative or print and submitted in the baseline JPEG recording format. While photo editing software can be used, excessive use of such programs (as determined by Sponsor/judges in their sole discretion) is prohibited.

Minor digital enhancement is permitted, but images that have been significantly modified or appear unnatural will be disqualified.

Not Permitted:

- No borders or frames may be added to images.
- No watermarks, signatures, or copyright notices may be added to images.
- Adding or replacing elements in an image is not permitted.
- Artistic filters are not permitted.

Permitted Modifications:

- Images may be cropped and rotated as necessary as long as the rectangular format is maintained and the size is within the specifications above.
- Images may be resized as long as the aspect ratio is maintained
- Red-eye removal and spot editing
- One-step enhancement (such as "AutoFix", "QuickFix", "Auto Levels", etc.)
- Use of filters to sharpen, soften, blur, despeckle, or remove noise.
- Use of corrective functions to improve the natural appearance of the image, such as levels, contrast, brightness, curves, intensity, tone, hue, saturation, lightness, value, color balance, and tint.

No photos larger than 3.2MB/photo will be accepted. All photos must have a minimum resolution of either a 1600 pixel width and/or 1200 pixel height (approximately 3 megapixels) in a standard portrait or landscape aspect ratio. Photos should not exceed 3872 pixel width and/or 2592 height (approximately 10 megapixels). **Please provide photos of the highest available resolution and quality.**

All files should be named in the following format (with sequential numbering):
lastname_firstname1.jpg

All images must be submitted via an email attachment to: lowell_photo@nps.gov

JUDGING CRITERIA AND WINNER SELECTION/NOTIFICATION

On or about February 1st, 2010 the top 20 photos (the top 10 photos for Teen age group; the top 10 photos for Adult age group) will be selected by a panel of independent, professional photographers, artists, professors, and/or park staff who shall rank Entries (in each age group) on the basis of: originality (0-25 points); artistic composition (0-25 points); photographic technique (0-25 points); and technical execution (0-25 points). Photo title may be used for purpose of identifying Entry (if selected as a winner and posted on Website), but will not be considered as part of the judging process. In the event of a tie, such tied Entries will be re-judged by judging panel using the above-indicated judging criteria. If more than one of a given Entrant's Entries are initially ranked in the Top 10 in a given age group, only the higher/highest of such Entrant's Entries will be included in the Top 10 in a given age group with all other Entries of such Entrant being discounted.

Judges will select twenty (20) finalists in total: ten (10) finalists ages 12-17 (teen), ten (10) finalists ages 18 and over (adult). Once chosen, these top 20 photos ("Top 20") will be posted on Lowell National Historical Park website (www.nps.gov/lowe/) and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, and 2 honorable mention winners in each age group will be selected by the panel of judges. A single Grand Prize photo will be selected from the 20 finalists. By participating, entrants (if a minor in jurisdiction of residence, his/her parent or legal guardian) agree to these Official Rules and that the judges'/Sponsor's decisions on all matters relating to the Contest are final and binding.

PRIZES AND NOTIFICATION OF WINNERS

All participants will receive an official certificate of participation from Lowell National Historical Park/National Park Service. One Grand Prize winner will be selected from all enteries. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, honorable mention winners (2) and finalists in each age group will receive specialized certificates, assorted prizes, will be featured on the Lowell National Historical Park website, will be identified by name online and in print, and will be featured in a public photographic display in an exhibit/gallery at Lowell National Historical Park. The Sponsor reserves the right to modify, change, or cancel the aforementioned prizes at any time.

Winners will be notified by phone, e-mail or mail on or about March 1st, 2010 and once confirmed, will be posted on the Lowell National Historical Park Website (www.nps.gov/lowe/) on or about March 1st, 2010.

IMAGE COPYRIGHT, WAIVERS AND RELEASES

By entering the Contest, all entrants grant an irrevocable perpetual non-exclusive license to Lowell National Historical Park and it's Authorized Parties, to modify, reproduce, distribute, display and create whole or in part derivative works of the entries in connection with the Contest, Lowell National Historical Park, the National Park Service, the Department of Interior, or other Park Partners/Stakeholders in any media now or hereafter known. Works will be produced with or without the winner's name, photo, likeness and biographical information, subject to applicable law, and without the further consent of, or compensation to, the winner (and/or his/her parent or legal guardian, if applicable). Entrants retain ownership and copyright of images.

LIABILITY DISCLAIMER

The Sponsor and its agencies are not responsible for any incorrect Form or Entry information, technical malfunctions, failures, omission, interruption, deletion or defect of any telephone network, computer online systems, computer equipment, servers, service providers or software including any injury or damage to Contestant's or any other person's computer relating to or resulting from access to or alteration of Entries, and/or inability to access the Lowell National Historical Park website). Entries that are processed late or incorrectly or are incomplete due to computer or electronic malfunction or traffic congestion on the Internet or at any web site, printing or human or other errors and any Entries which are lost, late, incomplete, stolen, misplaced, misdirected, mutilated are illegible. Proof of online submission is not considered proof of delivery or receipt.

If, in Sponsor's exclusive judgment, the implementation of this Contest becomes compromised in any way including but not limited to force majeure (e.g., strike, riot, civil unrest, natural cataclysm or otherwise) or technological/electronic or other malfunction/failure/error, Sponsor reserves the right to withdraw the Contest, cancel the affected method(s) of entry/winner determination, to void any entries submitted fraudulently and any entries that were affected by the Contest being so compromised and/or to select winners in a manner determined by Sponsor in its sole discretion to be fair, appropriate and consistent with the spirit of these Official Rules. Notice of such action by Sponsor will be posted on the Lowell National Historical Park website.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS

Call: Jonathan Parker, (978) 970-5048

Email: lowell_photo@nps.gov

Revised 9/26/2009